

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, said mail system comprising:

a communication device for communication through a network;

an calculation unit; and

a printer,

said communication device accepting from said sender a mail-sending request with said input form written in by using said digital pen,

said mail-sending request including at least a mail message and pen stroke information that indicates the address of a recipient who receives said mail,

said calculation unit determining the destination of said mail-sending request on the basis of said pen stroke information that indicates said address included in said mail-sending request,

said printer printing said mail including character strings that indicate said mail message and said determined destination.

2. A mail system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storage unit storing therein personal user

information that includes at least a user name and associated pen ID of said sender who sends said mail,

said calculation unit identifying said sender of said mail on the basis of said pen ID sent from said digital pen,

said printer printing said identified user name of said sender on said mail.

3. A mail system according to claim 2, wherein said personal user information includes signature information previously registered, said mail-sending request includes a signature of said sender, said calculation unit performs authentication of said signature included in said mail-sending request by using said signature information included in said personal user information, and if said signature is authenticated, accepts said mail-sending request so that said printer prints said mail.

4. A mail system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storage unit storing therein personal user information that includes destination address information of said recipient of said mail, wherein when said mail-sending request includes information input with an address card which is an digital pen input form associated with said personal user information of said recipient and which said sender has beforehand, said calculation unit searches for said personal user information on the basis of said input

information of said address card to decide said destination address.

5. A mail system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storage unit storing therein character recognition knowledge for character recognition based on said written pen stroke information,

said calculation unit processing said written address information of character strings to recognize said characters on the basis of said character recognition knowledge and to thereby determine said address.

6. A mail system according to claim 5, wherein said calculation unit collects the strokes of characters failed to be recognized in said character recognition processing, assigns correct character codes to said character strokes and thus makes use of those failures for additional learning about the function of said character recognition, thereby improving the accuracy of character recognition.

7. A mail system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storage unit for storing therein personal user information that includes user names, addresses and pen ID information of said sender and said recipient who send and receive said mail, respectively,

said printer providing, by printing, a reply block in which reply information can be written by use

of said digital pen while printing said mail to be sent from said sender to said recipient,

said communication device receiving a reply message that said recipient has filled in said reply block of said sent mail by use of said digital pen,

said printer printing said reply mail including said reply message.

8. A mail system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storage unit storing therein personal user information that includes user ID information and service usage history information of said sender of said mail or said recipient of said mail,

said service usage history information including using point information that is issued on the basis of the use of service by said sender or said recipient,

said calculation unit computing a total bill for the mail service using said mail system according to said stored using point information.

9. A mail service providing method using a mail system that has an digital pen capable of detecting the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of an input form and as a result detecting pen strokes, an calculation unit that communicates through a network to receive and accept a mail-sending request and a mail from a sender who has written in said input form by use of said digital pen,

and a printer that prints said mail from said sender to produce said mail to a recipient on the basis of said acceptance in said calculation unit, wherein

said main-sending request includes at least said pen stroke information that indicate a mail message and the address of said recipient who receives said mail,

said calculation unit determines the address described in said mail-sending request on the basis of said pen stroke information indicating said address, and

said printer prints said mail including character strings that indicate said mail message and said determined address.

10. A mail service providing method according to claim 9, wherein said storage unit of said mail system has previously stored therein personal user information including at least a user name and associated pen ID of said sender who sends said mail,

said calculation unit identifies said sender of said mail by use of said pen ID transmitted from said digital pen, and

said printer prints the user name of said identified sender on said mail.

11. A mail service providing method according to claim 10, wherein said personal user information includes signature information previously registered, said mail-sending request includes the signature of

said sender, and said calculation unit performs authentication of the signature included in said mail-sending request on the basis of the signature information included in said personal user information, and if the signature is authenticated, said calculation unit accepts said mail-sending request so that said mail can be printed.

12. A mail service providing method according to claim 9, wherein said storage unit included in said mail system stores previously therein personal user information that includes destination address information of said recipient who receives said mail, and when said mail-sending request includes information input with an address card which is said pen input form associated with the personal user information of said recipient and which said sender has beforehand, said personal user information is searched on the basis of input information of the address card so that said address can be determined.

13. A mail service providing method according to claim 9, wherein said storage unit included in said mail system stores therein character recognition knowledge for character recognition based on said written pen stroke information, and said character recognition knowledge is used to recognize the characters included in said written address information of character strings that indicate said address, and to thereby determine said address.

14. A mail service providing method according to claim 13, wherein strokes of characters failed to be recognized in said character recognition processing are collected, and correct character codes are assigned to said recognition-failed character strokes and used for additional learning of character recognition function, thus improving the accuracy of said character recognition.

15. A mail service providing method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

storing in said storage unit included in said mail system personal user information including user names, addresses and pen ID information of said sender and said recipient who send and receive said mail, respectively;

printing a reply block on a pen input form so that reply information can be written therein by use of said digital pen while printing said mail to be sent from said sender to said recipient;

receiving a reply message in said reply block of said mail input by said recipient with said electronic pen; and

printing a reply mail including said replay message.

16. A mail service providing method according to claim 9, wherein said storage unit included in said mail system stores therein personal user information including user ID information and service usage history

information of said sender of said mail or said recipient, said service usage history information includes using point information issued each time said sender or said recipient uses said mail service, and said calculation unit computes a total bill for the mail service using said mail system in accordance with said stored using point information.